

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1 – 74 (canceled)

Claim 75 (currently amended) A method of diagnosing infection in a human patient by, or exposure of a human patient to, a mycobacterium which expresses ESAT-6 which method comprises the steps of:

- (i) contacting a population of T cells from the patient with a panel of peptides represented by consisting of the peptides of SEQ. ID. Nos. 1 to 8, wherein said T cells are freshly isolated *ex vivo* cells from peripheral blood, and
- (ii) determining *in vitro* whether T cells of said T cell population show a recognition response to said peptides by determining IFN- $\gamma$  secretion from the T cells.

Claim 76 (original) A method as claimed in claim 75 wherein said panel is expanded to additionally include one or more further peptides selected from the group consisting of the peptides of SEQ. ID. Nos. 9 to 11.

Claim 77 (canceled)

Claim 78 (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 75 wherein any of said peptides is substituted by a peptide analogue which is at least 90% homologous, to the entire corresponding substituted peptide and which retains the ability to be recognised by T cells of a T cell population which recognise the corresponding substituted peptide.

Claim 79 (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 75 wherein any of said peptides is substituted by a peptide analogue which has one or more end-terminal deletions and which retains the ability to be recognised by T cells of a T

cell population which recognise the corresponding substituted peptide.

Claim 80 – 82 (canceled)

Claim 83 (new) A method as claimed in claim 76 wherein any of said peptides is substituted by a peptide analogue which is at least 90% homologous to the entire corresponding substituted peptide and which retains the ability to be recognized by T cells of a T cell population which recognize the corresponding substituted peptide.

Claim 84 (new) A method as claimed in claim 76 wherein any of said peptides is substituted by a peptide analogue which has one or more end-terminal deletions and which retains the ability to be recognized by T cells of a T cell population which recognize the corresponding substituted peptide.

Claim 85 (new) A method as claimed in any one of claims 75, 76, 78, 79, or 83 to 84 wherein said peptides are pooled.

Claim 86 (new) A method as claimed in any one of claims 75, 76, 78, 79, or 83 to 84 wherein presence of a mycobacterium which expresses ESAT-6 is determined in a suspected healthy contact who has been exposed to said mycobacterium.

Claim 87 (new) A kit for carrying out a method according to any one of claims 75, 76, 78, 79, or 83 to 84 comprising said panel of peptides.